IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims in accordance with the following rewritten claims in clean form. Applicant includes herewith an Attachment for Claim Amendments showing a marked up version of each amended claim.

Please amend the claims :

1. A method for handling a database containing objects that have an extension in a coordinate system representing a multidimensional reality, the coordinate system being divisible into a plurality of defined, multidimensional intervals, each time an object is entered into the database, the method comprising:

determining which multidimensional intervals the object has an extension in;

comparing the determined number of objects with a predetermined threshold value; and

dividing, if the threshold value is exceeded, the interval into at least two smaller intervals, in order to limit the number of objects related to an extension in any given, defined interval.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of linking each interval to a set of objects having an extension in the interval.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of linking each object to a set of intervals within which the object has an extension.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coordinate system comprises at least one time dimension.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coordinate system comprises at least spatial dimension.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each division of an interval occurs in only one dimension.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when the threshold value is exceeded, the interval is divided into two smaller intervals.

8. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when the threshold value is exceeded, the interval is divided into two intervals of equal size.

9. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of adjusting the division of intervals when the relation between an object and an extension in the coordinate system is removed.

Please add the following new claims:

10. A method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of linking each object to a set of intervals within which the object has an extension.

11. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the coordinate system comprises at least one time dimension.

12. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the coordinate system comprises at least one time dimension.

13. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the coordinate system comprises at least one time dimension.

14. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the coordinate system comprises at least spatial dimension.

15. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the coordinate system comprises at least spatial dimension.

16. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the coordinate system comprises at least spatial dimension.

17. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the coordinate system comprises three spatial dimensions.

18. A method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of adjusting the division of intervals when the relation between an object and an extension in the coordinate system is removed.

19. A method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the step of adjusting the division of intervals when the relation between an object and an extension in the coordinate system is removed.

20. A method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising the step of adjusting the division of intervals when the relation between an object and an extension in the coordinate system is removed.